

THE BANNER.



ABBEVILLE, C. H., S. C.:

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1847.

MURDER.

Mr. LEONARD WIDEMAN of this District was killed on the night of the 10th instant, it is supposed by some of his servants. The particulars as we have learned them are as follows. Mr. WIDEMAN had started to one of his plantations just at dark, some mile or two from his residence; when about half a mile from home, he was, set upon, choked and beat to death. His body was found a considerable distance from where he was murdered. The perpetrators endeavored to make it appear, that he had been thrown from his horse and killed, as he was dragged to the place where he was found, and placed in a position to induce such a belief.

Suspicion rests upon four of his negroes who have been arrested and brought to jail.

FROM COLUMBIA.

We have still nothing of much importance from the Legislature to give our readers.—The proceeding up to a late date will be found in another column. On the 9th inst, a resolution was passed in the Senate appropriating one year's salary for the benefit of Chancellor Harper's family by a vote of yeas 24. Nays 19.

The electoral bill was still under discussion at the latest dates.

The bill providing for subscriptions on the part of the State to the several Rail Roads has been rejected in the Senate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We have received this able document, but shall not be able to lay it before our readers from its great length. The President is very full upon the subject of the war, and recommends a vigorous prosecution; he is not in favor of withdrawing the army to a designated line with a view to hold and defend it. Such a course, he thinks, would degrade the nation in its own estimation and that of the world, and would not terminate the war, but encourage Mexico to protect it indefinitely—a border warfare would be constantly waged—a large army would be required to defend the line.

He maintains that the doctrine of no territory is the doctrine of no indemnity; and if sanctioned, would be a public acknowledgment that our country was wrong, and that the war so unanimously declared by Congress, was unjust and should be abandoned.

He recommends a revenue duty on tea and coffee during the war, and estimates that three millions of dollars might be raised annually, by a light tariff upon these articles.

In the conclusion he quotes Washington's farewell address on the danger of characterizing parties by geographical distinctions—Northern and Southern, &c. and the importance of the Union.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. TAYLOR.

The distinguished hero of Buena Vista arrived at New Orleans on the 3d instant, and received a most hearty welcome from the citizens. Great preparations were made for his reception. He was escorted from the barracks to the city, by a fleet of steam boats with colors flying, and each vessel rigged out in the gayest manner, whilst their decks were crowded with those anxious to honor the brave old hero. This part of the pageant is said to have been very splendid. As the vessels passed up the stream, salutes were fired from the artillery, the church bells rang forth their peals, and the numerous spectators upon the levee sent up their loud hurrahs.

The following is a description of the triumphal arch built for the occasion:—

"The building for the arch has been erected within the last few days, and is about fifty feet square, with one main arch and two smaller ones. The outside of the building and the inside of the arches were covered with evergreen boughs, which were so thickly placed as to form almost a solid mass of verdure. The word 'Welcome,' in large gilt letters, was placed upon the arch sprung from the roof of the building, while around the sides the memorable names of Buena Vista, Monterey, Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, were emblazoned. The whole was surmounted by an immense gilt eagle. A flag-staff was erected upon the roof, from which floated the stars and stripes, while smaller flags were hung

out from each corner of the building. The whole building was decorated in the finest taste."

FROM MEXICO.

We have received nothing whatever from the city of Mexico since our last. The news however from the Rio Grande is important if true as will be seen in the following extract which we take from the N. O. Commercial Times of the 6th instant.

From Guatemala and San Luis de Potosi.—A Mexican gentleman who arrived in town on Thursday last, from Guatemala, makes a statement which, if true, promises our troops some more fighting on this line. The author of the report is a citizen of this place, well known, and said to be good authority for what he states. He states that he left Guatemala on the 15th ult., and came through by the way of Tula. Minon was at Guatemala with 500 cavalry, acting as a corps of observation for General Filisola, whom he represents as being in San Luis with 9,000 troops. The intention of General Filisola was said to be to march upon Saltillo, as soon as it was ascertained that General Taylor had left the country. The Mexicans have great confidence in Filisola, and the people of San Luis were presuming largely upon the weakness of our forces when once from under the lead of the dreaded Taylor. He says the people are not at all dispirited by the loss of their capital, and evince as strong a determination as ever to continue the conflict.

Our informant says, also, that Urrea had left Tula with several hundred cavalry for Victoria, to settle accounts with Governor Fernandez, of this State, being greatly incensed at the many harsh things the Governor has said of him. The Governor has called to his aid Captain Capistran, who is said to have gone to his support with a considerable *Rancharo* force. A fight was expected—*Harrah* bear, hurrah husband."

Extract of a letter to the editor, dated

CITY OF MEXICO, Oct. 13.

The third division commanded by Gen. Pillow was to storm Chapultepec from the hills of Molino del Rey, on the left of Tacubaya. Gen. Worth was to move down the Tacubaya road, and make a lodgement in the city through the Garita (gate) of Saint Cosme, as soon as the operations upon Chapultepec was fairly under way.

The whole army except the Brigade at Pedel, and a guard at Miscoac with the trains, prisoners, hospitals, &c., were in the village of Tacubaya anxiously waiting the signal to attack, which was a temporary cessation of all the batteries. Precisely at 9 o'clock the expected signal was given.—

The batteries ceased and perfect silence reigned, except an occasional boom from Chapultepec and presently even that ceased, as if conscious that the hour had come. It was the portentous silence which usually precedes the tornado. Gen. Quitman, with his staff, (in which I acted for the day) dismounted and stood on foot at the head of his column, cool, firm and collected. In ten minutes the bugle, in clear shrill notes, sounded the charge, and all the columns moved in their respective directions. It would have done your soul good to have seen that sight; "not a drum was heard," not a word was said, and not a sound broke the dread stillness of the moment, except the steady tread of the 'Blue Jackets' as they filed out of that village, Quitman took the right and Pillow the left, as soon as the movement was perceived, Chapultepec opened all her thunders and our own batteries commenced with renewed efforts. The columns of our Infantry poured themselves like a torrent upon the woods at the base of Chapultepec, the edge of which was a sheet of flame as they approached, receiving in'o their ranks the leaden storm of thousands of muskets—still they pressed onward—onward through the shades of that dark forest, which though hundreds of years old never witnessed such a day before—onward and upward still they pressed over mines, ditches, walls and fortifications until they reached the very summit, and then placed upon the ramparts of the fortress our own "star spangled banner."

Honor and glory to the soldiers of our army!! to them the honor is due!! History cannot furnish a parallel with the storming of Chapultepec not even the passage of the bridge of Lodi or the marshes of Arcola!! I have since frequently thought of that terrific morning of the continued torrent of grape and canister, round shot and musketry that hailed about that little mountain, and my thoughts never recur to it without increased admiration and awe. Chapultepec is a plum in the cap of the Volunteers and new levies, for by them the work was chiefly done. The colours of the Voltiguers going up first and then in quick succession those of New-York, South Carolina and the 15th Infantry. It was in this storm that Lt. Cantey of the Kershaw company was killed, Lt. Clark of the Columbia company wounded, Mattison and Patrick of the Abbeville company killed, and R. Watson,

and many others in the company and Regiment wounded. After the hill, fort and fortress of Chapultepec were taken, our column pursued the enemy down the Aqueduct to the gate of Belen.

Here we had another terrific struggle, we succeeded at last in getting possession of the Garita: but it was like a hot potato very hard to hold. The gate is a causeway not more than thirty feet wide, and this narrow space was swept by three batteries and the Citadel, a long low building within three hundred yards of the gate, here we stood for hours sheltered as well as we could by some old mud houses and the water works, without which not one of us could have survived. We repulsed three charges, who were led each time by some gallant officer, waving a red flag in our faces. I think during that time, three hours, the Mexicans threw at least three waggons loads of grape, canister and round shot through that space of 30 feet; it may seem incredible, but in my conscience I believe it. I mean it literally when I say it rained balls of lead, iron and copper of all sizes for three successive hours.

Here it was that poor Moragne was killed by a grape shot—he acted like a man and fell like a soldier—he stepped for a moment from under the arches of the Aqueduct too see what was going on, and received the fatal ball, he never spoke except to say "I am shot through." Lt. Stein of Fairfield was killed, and Lt. Selleck wounded in the leg, he is now however walking about. Maj. Gladden was shot in the leg—who is hobbling about on crutches; doing well. Davlin of the Abbeville company was killed, who you remember never joined us till we got to Puebla, and many others of the Regiment, the list of killed and wounded will show you. I received a contusion in my right ankle, by a piece of the masonry of the water-works which was scaled off by a 24 pound shot, that struck the Aqueduct within three feet of me. I thought my leg was off, and was not satisfied to the contrary until I looked. It lamed me for several days, but I am now entirely well; and except this I came unscathed through the fiery ordeal of the glorious thirteenth of September.

From the Columbia Herald, of 7th inst.

Extract of a letter from Mexico.

We have been favored with the following extracts from a letter received in this place, written by a member of the Abbeville Company:

"NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, }
October 24, 1847. }

The day before the storming of Chapultepec, General Quitman took a party to examine the fort between the castle and city. After making the necessary discovery, and the Mexicans saw him returning, they, imagining he had attempted to take the fort and was repulsed, raised a tremendous shout. The Americans, in making a charge, invariably shout as loud as they can.

Although our Regiment charged upon the castle of Chapultepec in plain view of the enemy, through a meadow, and had several ditches to cross, which some leaped, the majority being compelled through fatigue, to jump in and get out the best way they could, few comparatively were killed.—My friend and mess-mate, Sergeant Mattison was killed in the charge upon the castle; he was shot through the neck by a grape shot, which killed him instantly. A braver man never fell in battle. He and the son of Dr. Trezevant, of Columbia, were buried. Trezevant was shot through the heart.

The officers of our Company exhibited great coolness and bravery in the several battles in which they were engaged. Gen. Shields called for two companies to volunteer to cross the road and go down a ditch (meaning alongside the ditch), to pick the men from their cannon. Captain Marshall, immediately volunteered his company, and another was detailed. Captain Marshall was in command. It was some time before the two companies could cross the ditch, and the attention of the Mexicans being directed to that point, musket balls became very numerous, one of which took a fancy to our Captain; it being a spent ball it only made him sick, which soon passed away. We advanced as near the enemy as we could, a body of water preventing us from reaching them. On General Shields being informed of this, we were ordered to join the Regiment.

Lieutenant Moragne was killed within the gates of the city. I was standing within a few feet of him when he was shot. He threw his hands to his breast, and cried out "O Lord I'm shot." I sprang to his side to assist him, but his eyes were set in death, and he immediately ceased to breathe.—His head was shot off after he was killed. Lieutenant Selleck acted very bravely, and is, I am told, favorably mentioned in General Quitman's report. He was wounded at the Garita de Belen and carried off the field. Four of our company were killed, and several wounded.

After our division had passed over the breast works at the gate of the city, and after holding the position for a considerable time, Captain Drum of the artillery (having one piece,) reported to General Quitman

that the matches had given out, and as we had crossed the breast-works for the purpose of protecting the cannon, the General ordered us to retire within the fortifications. It was at this time the enemy gave us a tremendous fire of grape and canister, killing some of the bravest men in the army, among whom were Captain Drum and his brave Orderly Sergeant—to whom it is said the honor is due of having been the first to mount the walls of "the Black Fort" at Monterey. Five of the Edgfield company fell together at this time, among whom was 1st Sergeant Blocker, who was then in command of the company * * * * * General Quitman moved about in the thickest of the fight as if he was proof against shot and shell. He seemed to look upon the enemy's fire with the most utter contempt, yet he had the most tender regard for the lives of his soldiers. He was always at the head of his command."

THE PALMETTO REGIMENT.

The politeness of a friend enables us to print the following article, from the American Star, of October the 22nd, published in the city of Mexico. The paper was received by him, with the kind remembrances of Lieut. Henry B. Judd, of the 3rd Artillery.

As our article of yesterday has created considerable remark, in every way creditable to the South Carolina Regiment of Volunteers, we are induced to add a word or two upon the subject. The Palmetto Regiment, notwithstanding its heavy losses, together with Smith's Rifles, belonging to General Quitman's division of volunteers, were the first who were inside of the Garita after the fall of Chapultepec, and the first to enter the city. At the light at the Garita, company D of the Palmetto Regiment, was at one time left entirely without officers. Captain Brooks was absent on furlow, the 1st Lieutenant was very ill, one of the 2nd Lieutenants had been killed at Churubusco, and the other Lieutenant was so severely wounded in the same battle that he was unable to take command of his company. The command was assumed by the Orderly Sergeant, Wm. Blocker, who, with five others, were shot down by a single cannon ball, and instantly killed. Company G, met with a somewhat similar fate. The Captain had gone home, and two Lieutenants had died, one of his wounds and the other of disease. The 3rd Lieutenant was wounded in the same fight, at the Garita, and a private, Mr. Davis, a man of intelligence and bravery, was promoted to a lieutenancy—he was the choice of the company, and his election was confirmed by the commanding officer of the regiment. We learn further that our statement that there are at present 250 men in the South Carolina Regiment fit for service is too large—there being hardly 200 of the original number who enlisted—1,000 strong—who are all at this moment, fit to do duty. The history of the regiment has certainly been somewhat singular and eventful.

Very respectfully, PALMETTO."

MR. PERRY'S REPORT.

Mr. Perry, from the Committee on Federal Relations, made the following Report in the Senate, on Monday last:

The Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the Mexican War, and the resolution offered on the same subject by the Honorable Senator from Union, have given this deeply interesting and important question that consideration which it so justly merits, and would most respectfully report—

That in order to present the justice and propriety of this war, on the part of the U. States, in its true light, it becomes necessary to refer to the circumstances which induced Mexico, in her folly and arrogance, to commence hostilities.

It is well known that great inducements were offered American citizens to settle in Texas. They received most liberal grants of lands, were permitted to form a free representative government, and became a sovereign State in the republican confederacy of Mexico. Under such a form of government, they had secured to them all those civil and political rights which they had enjoyed in the land of their birth. They were rapidly increasing in numbers, growing in wealth, prosperous and happy. But, by one of those sudden revolutions which have so characterized the Mexican people, the federal government was destroyed, and a central despotism established in its place, which deprived the Texans of all political privileges, and annihilated their State government. This could not be borne by men who had been educated as freemen, and who had in their veins Anglo Saxon blood. They immediately declared their independence and stood justified in the eyes of the world. Their independence was acknowledged by the principal powers of Europe, and maintained for eight years by their valor and wisdom. They assumed as their western boundary the Rio Grande, which had been formerly the recognized limits of Texas. Mexico offered to recognize their independence, provided they would not attach themselves to the U. States.

In regard to the right of Texas to become a portion of the United States, there can be no rational doubt. Being independent, she was at liberty to dispose of herself as she saw proper. The United States had the undoubted right to receive her into their Union. In doing so they did no injustice to Mexico. But the Mexican Government declared beforehand, that they would regard the annexation of Texas to the United States, as an act of war on the part of the federal government. They immediately recalled their Minister at Wa-

shington, and dismissed the American Minister at Mexico. An army was organized on the banks of the Rio Grande with orders to invade Texas and capture Gen'l. Taylor and the American forces under his command. This was all done by Mexico before any hostile movement was made on the part of the United States, and whilst Mexico was rejecting all propositions to treat as to the boundary of Texas.

The removal of the American troops from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, was done by the advice of General Taylor, and with a view of repelling the threatened invasion of our soil by the Mexican army.—The right of the President to take this step, and the propriety of it, can now hardly be doubted.

Confident from his superior numbers of an easy victory, the Mexican General crossed the river, and commenced the war in obedience to the orders of his government, which were afterwards found amongst his papers. The result was the victories of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, and the total rout of General Arista and the Mexican forces.

Had General Taylor or the President been content with these victories, and have waited for the enemy to recruit his strength and select his own time for another attack, it would have been a most culpable abandonment of all the advantages obtained by those hard fought battles. The policy of war, as well as our national honor, demanded an invasion of Mexico, and a continuance of the war until she sued for peace, or her armies were annihilated, and the country overrun. This has been done triumphantly and gloriously. The annals of history scarcely afford a parallel to that brilliant succession of victories and gallant achievements which have crowned our arms in Mexico with imperishable honors, and shed a halo of glory around the American name.

Having conquered the country, it now becomes a question of policy, whether to continue in possession of the whole of Mexico, or retain only so much as may be an ample indemnity for the expenses of the war.—This question must necessarily be left to the President and Congress to settle, and your Committee feel confident that they will pursue that course which honor, patriotism, and wisdom may dictate. Should circumstances render a rigorous prosecution of the war necessary, South Carolina will be found, as she ever has been, ready to sustain the true interests, national honor and glory of America.

Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions. All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. F. PERRY, Chairman pro tem.

Resolved,—That the present war with Mexico having been commenced by an invasion of our soil and the slaughter of our countrymen, the United States were not only bound by their national honor to repel the invaders, but were justifiable, on every principle, in carrying the war into the enemy's own country, and prosecuting it with vigor, until he sued for peace, or the country was overrun and subjugated by our gallant army.

Resolved,—That having conquered the republic of Mexico and annihilated her armies, and she still refusing all overtures for an honorable peace, it now becomes a question of policy on the part of the United States, whether to continue in possession, until a treaty can be form, of the whole country, or occupy only so much as may be an ample indemnity for the expenses of the war, and the demands of our citizens against the Mexican government.

Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

COLUMBIA, DEC. 4, 1847.

I had the pleasure, last evening, of meeting and conversing with two young gentlemen just returned from the city of Mexico. They have been discharged on account of wounds received at Churubusco; and inasmuch as they were attached to the Palmetto Regiment, I was able to obtain some information in relation to our gallant soldiers.

Major Gladden had not sufficiently recovered to enable him to return to duty, though convalescent. Capt. Dunnivant was in command.

Adjutant Cantey had entirely recovered, and was again on duty. His wound, I was pleased to learn was not so severe as at first represented. The ball we understand entered his cheek, and has deprived him of two teeth only.

Lieut. Clark, of Fairfield Company, had died of his wounds. The officers of the Charleston Company were all well. The Regiment is supposed to number about 300 and about 150 fit for duty. The sick were generally convalescent.

It must be a source of much gratification to every South Carolinian, to learn that the Regiment is highly estimated in Mexico by officers and men, Regulars and Volunteers, and their eminent services highly appreciated.

In the House, this morning, Mr. Jamison, from the Military Committee, made a report upon so much of the Governor's Message No. 1 as refers to the Palmetto Regiment. The report sets forth the services of the Regiment in glowing terms, but suggests the difficulty with which the Committee meet the proposition for a pension system. They recommend that this matter be left to another Legislature, who will have better opportunity for devising a system, but that the Governor be requested to have a monument erected in front of the State House, in memory of the gallant dead of the Palmetto Regiment; and that he be also requested to have suitable medals struck off, to be pre-